

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 AID-05 SSC-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 OMB-01 IO-10 /084 W
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O 151525Z AUG 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7724

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3953

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BG

SUBJECT: COUP IN BANGLADESH: SITUATION REPORT NO. 3

(CIVILIAN CABINET ANNOUNCED)

REF: DACCA 3951

SUMMARY. A VICE PRESIDENT, A TEN-MAN CIVILIAN CABINET, AND SIX STATE MINISTERS HAVE BEEN SWORN IN TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ALL ARE HOLD-OVERS FROM MUJIB'S GOVERNMENT. GAZI GOLAM MUSTAFA HAS BEEN "REMOVED" AS HEAD OF BANGLADESH RED CROSS. DACCA CITY REMAINS QUIET. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 1900 HOURS RADIO BANGLADESH ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT KHANDAKAR MUSHTAQUE AHMED HAD SWON INTO OFFICE A VICE PRESIDENT AND A TEN-MAN CIVILIAN CABINET AS WELL AS SIX STATE MINISTERS. NO PORTFOLIOS WERE ANNOUNCED. ALL TEN MEMBERS OF CABINET ARE HOLD-OVERS
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FROM CABINET OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN. FIVE OF SIX

STATE MINISTERS APPOINTED ARE ALSO FROM MUJIB'S GOVERNMENT PLUS CHIEF WHIP OF PARLIAMENTARY PARTY. FOLLOWING IS CABINET LIST, IN ORDER ANNOUNCED (POSITION HELD IN MUJIB'S GOVERNMENT APPEARS IN PARENTHESIS):

VICE PRESIDENT: MOHAMMADULLAH (FORMER PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH AND SINCE JANUARY MINISTER OF LAND ADMINISTRATION AND REFORM).

CABINET MEMBERS:

1. ABU SYED CHOWDHURY (FORMER PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH, THEN MUJIB'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ABROAD, AND SINCE AUGUST 8 MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT).
2. MD. YUSUF ALI (LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE; CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORTS).
3. PHANI BHUSAN MAJUMDAR (LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT).
4. MANORANJAN DHAR (LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS).
5. ABDUL MOMEN (FOOD AND RELIEF AND REHABILITATION).
6. AZADUZZAMAN KHAN (JUTE).
7. A.R. MALLICK (FINANCE).
8. MUZAFFAR AHMED CHOWDHURY (EDUCATION).
9. ABDUL MANNAN (HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING).
10. SOHRAB HOSSAIN (WORKS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT).

STATE MINISTERS:

1. SHAH MOAZZEN HOSSAIN (CHIEF WHIP OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY).
2. DEWAN FARID GAZI (COMMERCE).
3. TAHERUDDIN THAKUR (INFORMATION).
4. NURUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY (DEFENSE).
5. NURUL ISLAM MANZOOR (STATE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS WHO WAS FIRED BY MUJIB JULY 21 ON SUPPOSED CHARGES OF CORRUPTION BUT WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN REMOVED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL RIVALRY WITH SERNIABAT).
6. K.M. OBAIDUR RAHMAN (POSTS, TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPHS).

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2. RADIO EARLIER HAD ANNOUNCED THAT GAZI GOLAM MUSTAFA HAD BEEN "REMOVED" AS HEAD OF BANGLADESH RED CROSS. RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE B.A. SIDDIQI WAS APPOINTED IN HIS STEAD, "EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY."

3. RADIO HAS BEEN REPORTING THAT "PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAVE BEEN PRAISING THE "BOLD ACTION" OF THE ARMED FORCES TAKEOVER UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF KHONDAKAR MUSHTAQUE AHMED

IN "SAVING THE NATION" IN THIS "CRITICAL HOUR." IT ALSO SAID LEADERSHIP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION HAD COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ANNOUNCEMENTS ALSO ASK "LARGE NUMBERS OF EX-ARMY PERSONNEL "WHO HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REJOIN MILITARY TO REPORT TO NEAREST BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY.

4. ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT REPEATEDLY MADE IS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THAT THE INVIOABILITY AND EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY OF PREMISES OF FOREIGN MISSIONS WOULD BE FULLY RESPECTED AND THAT THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC FOREIGN PERSONNEL WORKING IN BANGLADESH WOULD BE ENSURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CUSTOMARY DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE.

5. MILITARY OFFICER IN CHARGE INFORMED US THAT AT PRESENT THE DECISION IS THAT DACCA AIRPORT WILL REMAIN CLOSED TOMORROW, AUGUST 16.

6. WE DO NOT YET KNOW EXACT NUMBER OF SHEIKH MUJIB'S SUPPORTERS KILLED IN TAKEOVER, BUT ONE SOURCE SAYS AN ARMY COLONEL (UNIDENTIFIED) TOLD HIM SIXTEEN PEOPLE ALL TOLD WERE KILLED IN ATTACK ON SHEIKH'S DHANMONDI RESIDENCE. WE ALSO HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT NEWLY APPOINTED BAKSAL SECRETARIES AND GOVERNORS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

7. CURFEW IS IN EFFECT "INDEFINITELY." BUT AT LEAST IN EMBASSY/DACCASTADIUM AREA MILITARY HAD DIFFICULTY DISPERSING SMALL CROWD WHO WERE ATTRACTED BY TANKS. THERE WERE PERIODIC GUN SHOTS HEARD BUT WE BELIEVE THAT MILITARY WAS FIRING OVER HEADS OF CROWD; WHEN LAST TANK MOVED AWAY AT 1840 HOURS, CROWD BEGAN TO DISPERSE. AT PRESENT, CITY APPEARS CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE VERY CALM.
BOSTER

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